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**CAPE member
organizations:**

Agudath Israel
of America
American Montessori
Society
Association Montessori
International—USA
Association of Christian
Teachers and Schools
Association of Christian
Schools International
Association of Waldorf
Schools of N.A.
Christian Schools
International
Council of Islamic Schools
in North America
Council on Educational
Standards and
Accountability
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
Friends Council
on Education
Lutheran Church—
Missouri Synod
National Association of
Episcopal Schools
National Association of
Independent Schools
National Catholic
Educational Association
National Christian
School Association
Oral Roberts University
Educational Fellowship
Seventh-day Adventist
Board of Education
United States Conference
of Catholic Bishops
Wisconsin Evangelical
Lutheran Synod Schools
38 Affiliated State
Organizations

October 3, 2016

Dear CAPE Colleagues:

After 20 years at CAPE and 47 years in private education, I announce my retirement effective December 31, 2017.

Serving the CAPE community has been a great joy and blessing. Whenever our members and state affiliates gather, I am reminded of CAPE's powerful properties: collective wisdom, mutual regard, shared purpose, and respectful discourse.

In many ways the CAPE community is a microcosm of the great American experiment itself. We bring a multitude of experiences and deeply divergent beliefs about profound matters to our discourse; we respect each other's right to hold those sometimes conflicting beliefs, and we remain steadfastly committed to finding common ground amidst our diversity.

Indeed, we stand as one around certain fundamental propositions:

- that parents, who are the primary educators of their children, and who know and love their children better than anyone else, should be free to choose the schools that suit their children best;
- that pluralism in education is good for students, families, and America;
- that private schools should be free to fulfill their own missions and thereby provide parents real choice regarding the education of their children.

Within this principled framework, we regularly arrive at and advance in the practical sphere policies, practices and projects that promote educational freedom and pluralism. It has been my honor to work with our community in forging consensus from diversity. But I have no illusion that the success of that work rests with any single individual. For among the great strengths of our community are its shared wisdom, its rich reservoir of leadership, and its abundant good will. With that wisdom, leadership, and determination, the CAPE community has moved forward. And those same cherished characteristics will see CAPE prosper for many years to come.

With profound gratitude for the opportunities and friendships with which CAPE has enriched my life, I remain,

Sincerely,



Joe McTighe
Executive Director



October 3rd, 2016

Dear CAPE Colleagues,

All of you who are familiar with Joe McTighe's leadership of the Council for American Private Education (CAPE) share our thanks for all that he and Trish have given to this association. Knowing the respect and admiration you have for them, I also know that you share our regret that their distinguished time at CAPE will be coming to an end.

As with any major life decision and transition, we rejoice in the many opportunities retirement will afford Joe and Trish, while knowing just how much we owe to their commitment and dedication to the mission of CAPE. In so many ways, Joe has embodied what it means to be CAPE: his ability to relate to an astonishingly wide range of private school associations as well as to the larger educational world in Washington will indeed be hard to replicate.

During the years that Joe has led CAPE, the association has grown in stature, visibility and effectiveness in making the case for private education in the United States. Our network of State CAPE chapters has grown significantly and our relationships with a wide range of government agencies and educational organizations have flourished. We have grown to love, trust, and rely deeply on the wisdom, accessibility, and good humor of Joe and Trish, and we will miss them deeply.

Fortunately, and true to his graceful nature, Joe has provided us with ample time to make the transition to new leadership. It is important that we begin the vital work of finding someone who will lead CAPE in the years ahead. I am pleased to announce that the CAPE Board has appointed a search committee, capably led by Dr. Gary Arnold—who serves on the board as our official liaison with State CAPE chapters—and one that is broadly representative of the rich diversity of the organization. The search committee, in collaboration with the board, will be working to effect a transition that serves in part as a tribute to Joe's leadership as well as an opportunity to chart the course of this important association in the years ahead. You will be hearing more regarding the official announcement of this opportunity and the qualities we seek in a new executive director.

We will have ample opportunity to thank Joe and Trish in the months ahead. In the meantime, we ask for your prayers and good wishes as we undertake this most important task for the benefit of all private schools in the United States.

Yours sincerely,

The Rev. Daniel R. Heischman, D.D.
President
Council for American Private Education